

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /129 W

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R 111807Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 3888

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RW

SUBJECT: HABYALIMANA INTERVIEW

1. BRUSSELS DAILY LE SOIR CARRIED INTERVIEW OF GENERAL HABYALIMANA IN ISSUE OF JULY 11 (APPEARED JULY 10). INTERVIEWER ETIENNE UGEUX DESCRIBES HABYALIMANA AS "BRILLIANT" AND SAYS INTERVIEW IS FIRST HE HAS GRANTED TO FOREIGN JOURNALIST. HABYALIMANA QUOTED AS MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. DECISION TO SUSPEND POLITICAL ACTIVITY RESULTED NOT FROM SINGLE EVENT BUT FROM SEVERAL WHICH HAD BROUGHT ON PSYCHOSIS OF TENSION AND DIVISION. INCIDENT ON NIGHT OF JULY 4-5 SIMPLY CAUSED POT TO BOIL OVER. NATIONAL GUARD BLOCKED PLAN TO EXTERMINATE CERTAIN PERSONS. BEFORE COUP, HANDFUL OF INCOMPETENT PETTY FUNCTIONARIES HAD BEEN DICTATING THEIR IDEAS TO TIRED CHIEF OF STATE. DESPITE RUMORS OF COUP ATTEMPT MAY 19 NO SUCH PLOT REALLY EXISTED.

3. NATIONAL GUARD WILL RETAIN POWER UNTIL IT CONVINCED THAT POLITICIANS CAN GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER. NEW LEADERS ARE NOW GOING TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZING SITUATION THROUGH

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FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

4. CALM REIGNS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. FEW PEOPLE ARRESTED. THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED REPREHENSIBLE ACTS WILL BE TRIED.

5. COUP WAS NOT PLANNED. MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT'S ENTOURAGE MA-EUVERED SO THAT HE NO LONGER HAD CONFIDENCE HABYALIMANA, WHO TOOK ACTION ONLY WHEN PUSHED TO EXTREME AND REALIZED EXTENT OF DANGER. (ASKED ABOUT BEING CONVOKED TO SEE PRESIDENT WHILE IN HIS PAJAMAS, HABYALIMANA SAID, " I SEE THAT YOU HAVE MUCH INFORMATION... IT IS THEREFORE POINTLESS TO REPLY.")

6. HABYALIMANA'S AMBITION IS TO RESOLVE SOCIAL AND ETHNIC PROBLEMS OF RWANDA. FORMER AUTHORITIES OF COUNTRY ARE NOT FREE OF SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN EVENTS AS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH, SUCH AS CONFLICTS IN SCHOOLS AND TROUBLES IN CERTAIN REGIONS. EVENTS COULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED SOONER.

7. COUP CHANGES NOTHING IN RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM. NEW LEADERS HOPE AID WILL BE INTENSIFIED. RECENT EXPULSIONS OF FOREIGNERS TOOK PLACE EITHER WITHOUT HABYALIMANA'S KNOWLEDGE OR AGAINST HIS ADVICE.

8. PRESENT SITUATION CAN LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN AFRICA. LEADERS OF NEIGHBORING STATES SEEM TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD REASONS FOR COUP. THAT CAN LEAD TO STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS.

9. RWANDA MUST REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO SOLVE OWN PROBLEMS. NEW LEADERS HOPE FOR INTENSIFICATION OF AID FROM COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AIDED RWANDA IN PAST.

10. TEXT OF INTERVIEW POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND KIGALI.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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